

behalf of Prof. R. C. Schiedt, of Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., the latter's discovery of the fact that the oysters native to the northwest coast of the United States are hermaphrodite and viviparous. Specimens from the coast of Oregon and Washington show that the same condition exists in the reproductive follicles as in those of *Ostrea edulis* of Europe. The presence of eggs and of spermatoblasts and spermatozoa in the same follicles is the invariable rule. The ova, like those of *O. edulis*, are much larger than those of *O. virginica*, though perhaps not quite so large as the former. The embryos are fertilized in the gill and mantle cavities, where they undergo development.

These northwest-coast oysters also resemble the oysters of Europe in that they are small and have little or no indication of purple pigment on the impression or point of insertion of the adductor muscle, which is so conspicuous a feature in *Ostrea virginica* of our eastern coast.

*On the cause of the greening of the oyster and its presumed algous endoparasites.*—PROF. JOHN A. RYDER also reported on behalf of Prof. Schiedt and himself the fact that living oysters from which the right valves had been removed, also became green about the heart as soon as green algæ appeared on the sides of the aquaria in which the oysters were kept at Sea Isle laboratory. Our experience, unlike that of Prof. Decaisne and others in France, was not conclusive as to the cause being the bluish green pigment, *phycocyanin*, absorbed from certain diatoms. On the contrary, the forms of algæ present were diatoms, desmids and the spores of *Ulva*, and, possibly, round-celled unicellular forms, so that it became impossible to decide from which species, used as food, the pigment was derived that discolored the affected heart of the specimen observed to become tinged.

Prof. Schiedt now informs the speaker that some of these marine algæ which are believed to have caused the discoloration of the oysters at Sea Isle, he has kept alive in a small aquarium filled with sea water, at Lancaster, for over two months since he left the sea-side laboratory.

The occurrence of these unicellular algæ of various kinds in association with the abrupt appearance of the green color in some one organ of the oyster, as happened at Sea Isle City, opens up the query whether the singular brownish green bodies so often observed by Prof. Ryder in sections of the connective tissues of the oyster are not endoparasitic algæ, which are in some way genetically connected with some of the forms that appeared in association with "greened" oysters at Sea Isle. The late Prof. Leidy's discovery, many years ago, of algæ in the tissues of fresh-water mussels, is suggestive in this connection.